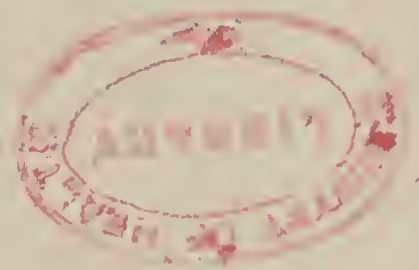


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Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
TYLDESLEY.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,
Tyldesley Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my seventeenth Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

The report is still curtailed and abridged, complete records are kept for inclusion in a more detailed report at some future date.

There is very little unemployment, what there is being mostly due to physical and medical reasons. Overcrowding is very acute, cases of two families living in one house being common, this cannot be remedied except by more houses being built and household equipment being provided at reasonable prices. Bare essentials of the latter are only provided at the moment by coupons.

The health of the district continues to be very satisfactory, and there are no outstanding features. The chief causes of death in both sexes are still Heart Disease, Cancer and Intracranial Vascular Lesions. It is with regret that I record that over 5% of the notified deaths were due to either Violent Causes or Suicide. The number of deaths recorded is 205, compared with 211 in 1943, giving a slightly reduced rate of 11.96 per 1,000, compared with 12.4 in 1943. The Birth Rate shows again an upward trend, 315 births being recorded with a rate of 18.3 per 1,000, compared with 18.1 in 1943. The infantile death rate at 57 per 1,000 live births, I am pleased to report, shows a considerable drop from last year, this is dealt with more fully in the body of the report.

A further decrease is recorded in the number of Diphtheria cases notified, there being 16 cases, compared with 20 in 1943. One death occurred after discharge from the Sanatorium, this child had not been Immunised. Scarlet Fever cases notified also dropped from 69 cases in 1943 to 37 in the year under review. Measles cases on the other hand show an increase.

The services of Astley Sanatorium continue to be fully used, 63 cases being admitted from this Authority during the year.

I would like to take this opportunity of placing on record, my appreciation for the assistance at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics by the Women's Voluntary Committee. My best thanks are also due to the Staff of the Department for their continued help and assistance to me in performing cheerfully and competently their often onerous duties.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

T. E. FLITCROFT.

August, 1945.

Medical Officer of Health.

R E P O R T

Area (in acres)	5,173.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid 1943)	17,140.
Population (Census 1931)	19,432.
Rateable Value	£77,390.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£305 nett.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M.	F.		
Live Births	(Legitimate	303	153	150	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population mid 1943.) <u>18.37</u>
	(Illegitimate	12	5	7	
		315	158	157	
Still Births		15	10	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births <u>45.4</u>
Deaths		205	106	99	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population <u>11.96</u>

Deaths from puerperal causes :-

	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
Puerperal & post abortive sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other maternal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1,000 live births	57.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	46.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	333.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	32
" " Tuberculosis Pulmonary	4
" " " Non-pulmonary	3
" " Measles	-
" " Whooping Cough	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-

Per 1,000 of estimated population					
	Live birthrate	Crude deathrate	Death rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system.	Death rate from cancer	Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births.
Mean of 5 years 1939 - 1943	15.44	12.36	0.39	1.82	58
1943	18.1	12.4	0.17	1.88	81
1944	18.37	11.96	0.23	1.86	57
Increase or decrease in 1944					
on 5 years average 1939 - 1943	+ 2.93	- 0.40	- 0.16	+ 0.04	- 1
Previous Year	+ 0.27	- 0.44	+ 0.06	- 0.02	- 24
England & Wales	17.60	11.6	-	-	46
Maternal Mortality Rate					
	Per 1,000 live births		Per 1,000 total (live & still) births		
Mean of 5 years 1939 - 1943	5.60		5.32		
1943	Nil		Nil		
1944	Nil		Nil		
Increase or decrease in 1944 on 5 years average 1939 - 1943	- 5.60		- 5.32		
Previous Year	Nil		Nil		
England and Wales	-		2.93		

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1944 ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

CAUSE	Years.							TOTALS	
	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65	MALES	FEMALES
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Diphtheria	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	2
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-
Cancer	-	-	1	-	3	12	16	14	18
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	-	-	-	-	-	9	14	10	13
Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	2	17	19	19	19
Other diseases of the circulatory system	-	-	-	-	1	3	8	6	6
Bronchitis	1	-	-	1	1	8	7	10	8
Pneumonia	3	-	-	-	1	1	5	2	2
Other respiratory diseases	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Other digestive diseases	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1
Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	2
Premature Birth	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	5
Congenital Malformations	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Violent Causes	1	-	-	-	3	3	-	6	1
All other causes	1	-	-	1	1	4	18	13	12
TOTALS	18	2	3	5	17	67	95	106	99

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1944.

FINAL FIGURES AFTER CORRECTION.

DISEASE	Total cases at all ages	CASES NOTIFIED										Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital
		Under 1	1 and 2	3 and 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	37	-	6	2	18	6	4	1	-	-	-	33	
Diphtheria	16	-	3	1	2	4	5	1	-	-	1	16	
Whooping Cough	8	-	2	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles	199	11	49	69	58	9	2	1	-	-	-	1	
Erysipelas	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	1	-	2	
Enteric Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Pneumonia	19	1	1	-	3	-	1	3	7	3	10	1	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTALS	291	15	61	77	82	19	13	9	10	5	14	56	

III A further seven cases were admitted to Isolation Hospital, but the original diagnosis was not confirmed.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Swimming Baths.

A public swimming bath is owned by the Council an unsatisfactory feature of which is the entire absence of filtration plant. The bath is now totally inadequate for the needs of the community, and prior to the outbreak of hostilities, the provision of an up to date swimming bath was receiving active consideration by the Council.

Recommendations were made, following unsatisfactory reports of anyalses on water taken from the bath, for hand chlorination of the water, which is supplied from the town's mains and changed weekly.

These recommendations were carried out and hand chlorination is now applied and samples taken since, have shown a decided improvement. The Bath's Superintendent has been provided with a Lovibond Testing Outfit for estimating the residual of free chlorine in the water by the ortho .. tolidine test.

Water Supply.

The water supply is obtained in bulk by agreement, from the Manchester Corporation, and is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

No examinations either bacteriological or chemical have been carried out on behalf of this authority during the year.

There are still a few isolated houses without a piped supply, these are chiefly situated in an isolated part of the district and the dwellings are confined to temporary structures occupied in connection with small holdings of agricultural land.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Midwifery Services.

The Lancashire County Council is the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act, 1936, and the following is a list of County Midwives practising in the district : -

Mrs E. Baker, 171, Sale Lane, Tyldesley.
Mrs E. J. Bevan, 181, Sale Lane, Tyldesley.
Mrs M. Cocker, 366, Manchester Road, Astley.

Child Welfare Clinics.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Work is controlled by a Joint Committee comprised of the Members of the Public Health Committee and co-opted Lady Members nominated by the Council. There is also a Voluntary Committee of Ladies nominated by various organisations in the district who give their services and attend by rota at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

There are two Clinics, one situated at the Methodist School room, George Street, Tyldesley, and the other at the Independent Methodist Church, Manchester Road, Astley, and weekly sessions are held at both Clinics. I again most strongly urge the provision of an extra clinic at Mosley Common to minimise the inconvenience of travel to the mothers, especially in inclement weather.

The Clinics continue to be well attended, showing a large increase in the number of mothers attending at Tyldesley, and a slight decrease at Astley. Probably a number of the Astley mothers attend the Tyldesley Clinic for the sake of convenience. The number of children attending during 1944 was 4,069 at Tyldesley and 1,942 at Astley, compared with 2,934 and 2,022 respectively the previous year. I make a particular point of seeing every new baby attending the clinic for the first time.

The Health Visitor made 906 visits to children under one year of age, compared with 823 in 1943, and 1,258 visits to children between one and 5 years, as against 1,219 the previous year.

Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil, Capsules and National Dried Milk under the scheme of the Ministry of Food, were distributed from the Child Welfare Centres and the Food Office, in addition to a supply of proprietary brands of Dried Milk. A number of children receiving the above from the Town Hall and Food Office, do not attend the Clinic.

	<u>Orange.</u>	<u>Oil.</u>	<u>Capsules.</u>	<u>National Dried Milk.</u>
Mosley Common	1087	152	22	-
Tyldesley Clinic	688	111	-	-
Astley Clinic	2141	326	43)
Town Hall	3362	471	82) 2051 tins.
Food Office	7900	975	303)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	15178	2035	450	2051 tins.
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Minor Ailments.

Minor Ailments are treated at the Clinics, and during 1944, 148 children were treated

In accordance with arrangements made with the Medical Officer of Health, Lancashire County Council, the following cases were referred to the School Clinic for treatment. These cases included :-

Dental Treatment	1
Tonsils & Adenoids	1
Defective Vision	2
Orthopaedic	2
Sunlight	5
	<hr/>
	11
	<hr/>

In addition to the above, nine cases were referred direct to Hospital for treatment.

Still Births.

Fifteen Still Births were recorded during 1944, compared with twenty-one in 1943. This gives a Still Birth Rate of 45.4 per 1,000 live and still births. Each case was investigated by the Health Visitor, but no exceptional circumstances were found to account for this unsatisfactory state of affairs. The problem of Still Births and the cause thereof is one affecting the whole of the country and causes anxiety to all Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities.

Infantile Mortality.

I am pleased to report a decided improvement in this distressing problem, 18 deaths were reported, including one child found abandoned by its mother, compared with 25 during 1943. This gives a rate of 57 per 1,000 compared with 81 per 1,000 during 1943. The 1944 rate for England and Wales being 46 per 1,000. A summary of the cases is detailed hereunder:-

<u>Cause of death</u>	<u>Ages.</u>
Congenital Malformation Debility etc.	1 day, 15 min. 2 hours, 3 weeks
Broncho Pneumonia.	3 months, 6 weeks, 10 months.
Prematurity	1 hour, 5 days, 12 hours, 3 days 5 days 1 day, 1 week, 1 week.
Lobar Pneumonia	7 months.
Gastro-enteritis.	2 months.
Inattention at Birth, Baby found abandoned.	Few moments.

■ Twins.

The ages of deaths are summarised below:-

Up to one day	7
Between 1 & 7 days	5
Between 1 & 4 weeks	1
Between 1 & 3 months	3
Between 4 & 6 months	-
Over 6 months.	2

Births.

330 (Live and Still) births were certified for 1944 compared with 329 in 1943. This number includes 62 born at St. Mary's and 34 at The Leigh Maternity Home. The majority of cases admitted to St. Mary's were referred by the Council's Ante-Natal Consultant or Private Medical Practitioner on account of complications. Many of the cases admitted to Leigh Maternity Home were for domestic reasons only.

Premature Births.

Following the receipt of Circular 20/44, dated the 22nd March, 1944 on the care of Premature Infants, the recommendations and instructions contained therein have been adopted, and a supply of Hot Water Bottles, Mucus Catheters, Electric Heating Pad, Clinical Thermometers etc. have been provided and are available for use upon request by the Medical Practitioners and Midwives practising in the area. In addition special cards of instructions are sent to the parents whenever the birth of an underweight baby is notified.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

Dr W.R. Addis F.R.C.O.G., is the Ante Natal Consultant and attends the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Tyldesley each fortnight. 22 sessions were held with 396 attendance from 189 expectant mothers, the Health Visitor and midwives attend the sessions.

I consider our Ante Natal arrangements are second to none in the County and there were again no maternal deaths during the year.

Prevention of Blindness.

Two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified, one being treated in hospital and one at home, both fully recovered with no impairment of vision.

Care of Illegitimate Children.

Illegitimate children are in the vast majority of cases cared for by their own mothers, to whom advice is given and regular visits made by the Health Visitor.

Close co-operation is observed between the Health Visitor and the representative of the Leigh & District Council for Moral Welfare whose activities cover this area.

The Council make an annual subscription to this voluntary organisation

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of Infectious Disease in the District shows no marked change apart from a decrease in the number of notified cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

The cases notified are set out elsewhere in this report.

The number of cases admitted to Astley Sanatorium from this Authority was 63, compared with 88 in 1943.

Tuberculosis.

The arrangements for these patients are under control of the Lancashire County Council and a clinic for the whole of this area is provided at Church Street, Leigh, Dr G. Jessel being the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer in Charge.

The cases notified were as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
Male	Female	Male	Female
10	9	1	2

There were four deaths from pulmonary and three from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Public generally are beginning to realise the benefit of Immunisation, as a protection against Diphtheria, judging by the increased response to propaganda both national and local and to the efforts of broadcast talks. This is shown by the increased number of children presenting themselves for immunisation in the Tyldesley Area.

261 children were completely immunised during the year, between the ages of 1 and 5 years, this gives a total of 64% of children in this age group. In addition 54 children were completely immunised between 5 and 14 years of age making a total for this age group of 75% fully immunised. This is very satisfactory a number of children were in addition immunised by local medical practitioners, but complete reports are not available.

During the year a scheme was initiated whereby 154 Birthday cards were sent to children on their first birthday, and pamphlets are given to parents attending the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, especially on first visit.

The Ministry of Health state that the incidence of Diphtheria will not be markedly reduced until 75% of all children age 1 - 15 years are immunised. The Ministry of Health in reply to a question in the House of Commons stated that 35 deaths from Diphtheria occurred among immunised children, compared with 700 deaths among non immunised children, during 1944.

CLEANSING OF PERSONS.

Scabies.

Scabies were treated at the Clinic, at the First Aid Post under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health, and a qualified nurse. Up to the closing of the Post on November 15th 1944. 108 cases were treated as follows:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Children under 5	8	11
Children between 5 & 14	21	41
Adults	9	18

The treatments given were confined almost exclusively to painting the patient from head to foot with Benzyl Benzoate and it was found that after two to three treatments the patient could be discharged as cured.

In this connection 307 baths were given with appropriate treatment to the 108 cases treated.

Treatment of other body infestations was also carried out. Lethane oil was used and provided free to persons found to be suffering from head lice. Much useful work was carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics in the dissemination, by talks and propaganda, of knowledge on the control and eradication of all types of body vermin.

Blood Transfusions.

This work was continued during the year under the direction of the North Western Regional Blood Transfusions Service, who provided the necessary medical staff. Lay staff was provided from the volunteers in the First Aid Post Service and accommodation and equipment were also provided from the same sources.

Four sessions were held and 237 containers of blood were collected for use by the Armed Forces and Civilian Hospitals. Much of this blood was for conversion into dried plasma.

Since the inception of the scheme 414 donors have presented themselves some as many as six times, and a total of 916 bottles of blood has been collected.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1944.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Town Hall,
TYLDESLEY.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Tyldesley Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I wish again to draw attention to the shortage of inspectoral staff, the department having been deprived of its Additional Sanitary Inspector in April 1941.

The war is now in its sixth year and repairs to houses postponed at the commencement of hostilities owing to shortage of labour and lack of materials are becoming an acute problem. Tenants who were prepared to bear discomfort during the war years, owing to force of circumstances, are now beginning to expect outstanding work of maintenance to their dwellings to be resumed at an early date, and in my opinion, they have complete justification for this point of view.

I have not evidenced a reluctance upon the part of owners to carry out these necessary repairs, but rather inability to obtain completion of the work by their contractors despite constant pressure both by this department and the owners concerned. In many of my monthly reports to you during the year, I have pointed out that some form of licensing of building work was necessary and at the time of writing, that control has become a fact, and I hope it will help to solve some of our problems that lie in this field.

The extent of overcrowding and two families to one house had increased so rapidly since the erection of houses ceased in 1939, that, following a report made to you in October, instructions were given for a report to be prepared on the "Post War Housing Needs" of the district, and press publicity was given to the desire of the Council to receive applications from persons living in overcrowded conditions and more than one family to a house. This report was under preparation at the close of the year and will show that housing conditions in the town are at least as overcrowded as would be expected after six years of war and that new houses are our most urgent necessity.

Work under the Milk and Dairies Order was well maintained and samples taken show a decided improvement over 1943 which is a most gratifying response to the amount of work expended in this direction.

Work under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act was intensified during the year the activities are dealt with fully in the body of the report.

Many additional duties not covered by this report have been carried out and whilst one must regret the partial suspension of the Public Health functions of the department, it was necessary that it should bear some share of the many and varied extensions of Local Government Services brought about by the war.

My best thanks are due to the Medical Officer of Health and the Officials for their help and co-operation, especially the Clerk to whom I am indebted for the kindly consideration and help he has given to the many matters referred to him.

Yours respectfully,

THOMAS C. WARD.

Sanitary Inspector.

August 1945.

HOUSING AND OVERCROWDING.

As in 1943, the main deterrent in the carrying out of essential housing repairs has been the acute shortage of Building Trade Operatives. Satisfactory progress has however been made, but there was a substantial amount of outstanding work at the beginning of 1945.

The continuation of the demolition of insanitary houses under the Housing Act 1936, interrupted in 1939, is an urgent necessity. Many houses unfit then are now six years older and one can readily imagine that they have not improved during this period. The prospects of an early resumption of building to rehouse persons displaced from Clearance Areas is not bright but is one that must be kept constantly in the forefront of the Council's housing programme.

When staff becomes available it will be necessary to continue with routine house to house inspections, and, where necessary, the enforcement of repairs.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

There are 35 dairy farms in the district, seven of them produce accredited milk and constant supervision is exercised. Much progress has been made in modernising the older type of shippon, but there are a few that require attention and which despite constant pressure, still remain. During the year three shippons were provided with new floors and had walls cement rendered.

During the year 97 samples of milk were taken compared with 134 the previous year. The results compared with those of 1943 are given herunder :-

Examination for Tubercle Bacilli.

<u>Samples taken.</u>		<u>Negative.</u>	<u>Positive.</u>
1943	71	70	1
1944	52	49	3

Methylene Blue Reduction Test & B. Coli.

	<u>Samples taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Not satisfactory.</u>
1943	63	31	32
1944	45	40	5

It is very pleasing to observe the most decided improvement in the percentage of samples reported as being satisfactory when subjected to the Methylene Blue Test. The standard taken being that prescribed for accredited milk.

Reports of the premature souring of milk during the summer months are still received, although they have not been common. I believe a large percentage of these complaints are due, not to neglect in the observance of hygienic conditions of production and storage by the farmer or dairyman, but to a complete disregard by the consumer of the elementary rules governing the storage of so perishable a food. In many cases milk has perforce to be left on the step of the house, often in the direct sunlight, until the workers return home in the evening. Unfortunately, it is a fact that although householders may be provided with proper food storage accommodation, many prefer to use their living room table as the repository for their foodstuffs, which remain there until consumed.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

The year saw an extension of work under this head, and operatives were trained in the system approved by the Ministry of Food. This provides for laying unpoisoned prebait for several days prior to placing of poison baits in order to encourage the rats to build up a feeding impulse.

Under directions, received from the Ministry of Food, the department carried out a large and successful programme of sewer treatments which extended over a period of six weeks in May and June. The following are the summarised results obtained :-

	<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Manholes Baited</u>	<u>Prebait takes</u>	<u>Poison bait takes</u>
1st week	1st	143	25	22
2nd week	1st	151	3	1
3rd week	1st	165	4	4
Inter-rail				
4th week	2nd	143	7	4
5th week	2nd	164	6	1
6th week	2nd	175	-	-
		<u>941</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>32</u>

From calculations suggested by the Ministry of Food based upon the amount of poison bait taken it would appear that between 400 and 500 rats were destroyed.

The services of the Council's ratcatcher, to whom a small yearly retainer is paid, are still in constant demand and he dealt promptly and efficiently with all cases referred to him, using ferrets and dogs.

The large increase in backyard poultry keeping has enhanced the value of an efficient organisation to prevent depredations by rodent infestations of the nation's food supply.

BAKEHOUSES.

Twenty-seven inspections of bakehouses were carried out, where necessary, the attention of occupiers was drawn to the provisions of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, regarding limewashing and cleanliness generally.

During the year four solid fuel ovens which were in need of repair or replacement were superseded by gas fired ovens. This alteration in fuel will tend to a very large degree in keeping the bakehouses cleaner, especially where the ovens were previously internally fired.

One bakehouse was enlarged and extensive repairs were carried out on the recommendations of the department.

ERADICATION OF THE BED BUG.

During the period under review two Council Houses were treated with HCN gas, for infestations due to bed bugs and the department was called upon to identify many types of insects infesting dwellings in the town, some of these were quite harmless, although perhaps objectionable to the occupiers.

There is a widespread need for the development of products non-toxic to human life which will effectively rid dwelling houses of vermin, such as the bed bug and the cockroach. Perhaps some progress will be made with the new wartime discoveries D.D.T. and 666. The former has already proved its effectiveness in dealing with body lice control in Typhus outbreaks on the continent. At the moment I consider Hydrogen Cyanide to be the only real effective method, but as it is dangerous to use, only specialist operatives can be employed and its cost has become almost prohibitive during the last few years. I am afraid that, until some cheaper and more easily applied method of eradication is devised, no substantial progress will be made in the control of this most noisome pest which is fast becoming a major sociological problem.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

The following inspections and visits were carried out during the year : -

Cowsheds and dairies	195.
Bakehouses	27.
Factories	12.
Butcher's shops	53.
Offensive trades	15.
Common Lodging Houses	5.
Food preparing premises	39.
Infectious diseases	53.

315 houses were inspected for nuisances and housing defects and 712 re-inspections were carried out in connection with this work. Nine Statutory Notices were served for the repair of houses under the provisions of Section 9 of the Housing Act 1936. Work was carried out in default in two cases.

The following is a summarised list of the work done in connection with nuisances and housing repairs : -

Water closets	175.
Drains	86.
Floors	29.
Ceilings	47.
Plastering of walls	117.
Eavesgutters and downspouts	69.
Roofs	156.
External walls	47.
Windows	43.
Sinks	17.
Yard surfaces	15.
Dust bins	179.
Noxious accumulations	7.
Verminous infestations	23.
Washboilers	55.
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	17.

Total	1082.
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REFUSE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL & SALVAGE.

Prior to the war all dry refuse was collected weekly, but at the commencement of hostilities the work was reorganised to free men and a vehicle for salvage collections and now approximately 1/3rd of the town is collected every other week.

The town is situated in a colliery district and no free or cheap coal is available to the mine workers. Despite the fact that only the same limited supplies of coal are available as in other districts a great deal of coal picking is carried on, resulting in heavy yields of ashes in

different parts of the town.

The salvage campaign was energetically pursued despite the ever increasing shortage of men. These receipts at £888 show a considerable drop from the previous year.

No reliable figures are available relating to the weight of refuse removed owing to the fact that no weighbridge is adjacent to the tip. Test weighings were made and it is estimated that approximately 3,500 tons of refuse were removed.

The total nett cost expended on this service during the year was as follows : -

	Collection	Disposal
Total cost	£2,275	£584
Cost per 1,000 population	£159	£34
Cost per 1,000 houses	£514	£110
Cost per house	10/3	2/2

